



The Center:

A Drop-In Community Learning & Resource Center Inc

Our mission is to support & nurture the lifetime learning of youth and their families.

www.dropinlearningcenter.org

45 Broad St, Annex
New London, CT 06320
Phone (860) 442.4466
Fax (860) 443.0095
dilcenter@gmail.com

Ms. Reona Dyess
Executive Director

Mr. Wilfred Rondeau Jr.
President

Ms. JoAnn Barrows
Secretary

Mr. Armand Lambert
Treasurer

Mr. Nick Curcio
Board Member

Mr. Jon Cruz
Board Member

Mr. Ed Hafner
Board Member

Ms. Connie Hightower
Board Member

Ms. Stephanie Johnson
Board Member

Mr. Greg McCormack
Board Member

Mr. Axel Westerberg
Board Member

Testimony in Support of SB 122,

AAC Bonds of the State for the Construction of a Community Center and Recreational Facility in New London

Reona Marie Dyess, Executive Director,

The Center: A Drop-In Community Learning and Resource Center, Inc., (known as The Drop-In Learning Center)

45 Broad Street, Annex, New London, CT 06320

The Drop-In Learning Center has served New London Community for 42 years (since 1970) and currently provide pre-school and school age childcare services to over 100 families, administers the Reading Is Fundamental literacy program that reaches over 10,000 students in Eastern CT annually, and provides important family support services that nurture positive youth, family, and community outcomes. Staying to true to our mission to support and nurture the life time learning of youth and their families it is our belief that the city of New London is in dire need of a unified community center and recreational facility. A unified community center would help to support and nurture community members throughout the stages of their lives and encourage intergenerational, cross cultural learning opportunities.

- The Martin Center is outdated and in disrepair and does not currently meet the needs of our community. It is physically located next to the Court House which is not a positive image for your youth and continues to psychologically reinforce only a pathway to prison.
- Programs are spread around the city in various buildings with limited resources and lack of coordination.
- We do not have a swimming pool to provide swim lessons for the youth who live on the shoreline.
- Senior Center building is also out dated, the room is small and does not meet the needs of our senior citizens, and the room is shared with various groups which limits programming.

